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# HOLYOKE the Sun

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## Unique majors are being offered at HCC this fall

HOLYOKE – Cannabis cultivation, beer and cider brewing, and winemaking are just a few of the new academic programs being offered this fall at Holyoke Community College.

All three were devel-

HCC, 9

## Coalition responds to announcement on design team

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Soldiers' Home Coalition today released the following statement in response to the Baker-Polito Administration's announcement on the selection of Payette for the first phase of the expedited capital project for a new Soldiers' Home in Holyoke.

"When we speak of re-imaging the future, we should not be constrained by the past. Adult Day Healthcare, enhanced behavioral health services and services for Veterans requiring our state's help with substance use disorders, post-traumatic stress or traumatic brain injuries must be part of any plan

COALITION, 9

## Grab and Go crafts available

The Children's Room is offering free Grab & Go Kits through our curbside pickup service! An activity kit about all things Superheroes is now available, as well as several Build Your Own Stuffed Animal craft kits! We'll be offering more throughout the summer and fall, so keep an eye out.

The kits are free and are first come first serve. To claim a kit or to see what we have available, please email our children's librarian Charlie at [cpope@holyokelibrary.org](mailto:cpope@holyokelibrary.org) or call the Children's Room at 413-420-8105.

# Attorney hired to investigate Morse

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

HOLYOKE – As time continues to wane toward the Sept. 1 state primary, the battle between Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse and U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, D-Massachusetts heated up with the start of an investigation by the University of Massachusetts.

Morse has also gone on the attack, accusing the College Democrats who spearheaded the timing of the letter accusing Morse of having inappropriate sexual relationships with students at the school while he was a lecturer at UMass.

Neal's campaign has denied having any part of the "smear job" Morse is claiming.

Morse believes the letter published by the Daily Collegian, a UMass publication, was done to sabotage his candidacy, and blames Neal's campaign for its release.

Morse has released a statement admitting to using dating apps to initiate sexual relationships with students, and acknowledged having such relationships with students attending UMass. Multiple times in multiple publications and forums, Morse has denied using his position of power for sexual gain. He said all his sexual

relationships have been consensual and none were with students he was directly teaching.

Natasha Tidwell, an attorney who is a partner at Saul Ewing, Arnstein & Lehr, a Boston law firm, has agreed to launch an investigation on behalf of UMass into Morse's behavior. She will likely conduct many interviews and will be searching for impropriety and Title IX violations committed by Morse.

It is not clear how long an investigation will take, but it is likely to go well behind the Sept. 1 primary. If Morse is unsuccessful in his campaign, the investigation into his contact will have more local impact in his home city of Holyoke, where councilors are calling for investigations and a couple for his resignation.

Morse said in a public statement last week that he welcomes any investigation and believes any investigation will clear him of any possible wrongdoing. He has denied violating any UMass policies.



Alex Morse



Richard Neal

Morse was a part-time lecturer at UMass from 2014 to 2019, teaching political studies. Morse was just 25 years old when he was hired. UMass has announced Morse was not re-hired for the fall semester. The College Democrats of Massachusetts, which wrote the letter in the Daily Collegian, have disinvited Morse from attending their events in the future.

According to UMass, their policy does not explicitly ban romantic relationships between faculty and students. It does ban relationships between faculty and students in which the faculty member has direct involvement with that student's education experience at the university, which as being an instructor or even an advisor for an extracurricular activity.

While not banned, student-faculty relationships are "strongly discouraged."

Neal and Morse were set to meet in debates this week where the issue could come depending on the style of debate.

# Sullivan files order for local inquiry

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

HOLYOKE – One Holyoke City Councilor that has already called for Mayor Alex Morse's resignation has now filed an order seeking for the personnel director for the city to investigate Morse's conduct.

It has been alleged Morse engaged in inappropriate relationships with college students while a part-time lecturer at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

The situation became public in a letter from the College Democrats of Massachusetts that was published in the Daily Collegian, a UMass publication.

The timing comes just as Morse gets set to challenge U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, D-Massachusetts (see related story) for a seat in Congress.

Meanwhile, the local effects have been felt from some members of the city council.

Councilor-At-Large Michael Sullivan was one of two councilors who last week said Morse should resign as mayor of the city.

Sullivan then filed an order earlier this week that must be acted on by the council. The Holyoke City Council

See INQUIRY, page 9

## POSITIVE TESTS FORCE CLOSURES



Nick's Nest was the second Holyoke business to be forced to close this week due to a positive coronavirus case. Businesses which have employees test positive for the virus must close and deep clean before being allowed to be re-opened.

File photos



Target at the Holyoke Mall was closed down for a little more than a day after it was discovered that two employees had tested positive for COVID-19. The store was shut down and a deep cleaning was performed. The rest of the Holyoke Mall remained open and Target re-opened later in the week.



# Testing site at Agawam Jr. High popular for residents

By Shelby Macri  
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – Agawam Junior High School was used as a site for COVID-19 testing, and continues to be set up and has been accepting people from all over the region. Though the site is located in Agawam, there are independent medical groups conducting these tests and providing the results to those who get tested.

At the testing site there are two tents set up for people getting tested; the first tent asks for people’s information in order to send the results while the second tent verifies personal information before administering the test. This site had been set up for a few weeks and more testing dates were recently added, the new dates will continue at the Junior High School site. The added dates will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. until Sept. 10.

The testing site was created by the state and the medical groups were also hired by the state, so while people are tested in Agawam, the town will not have any answers or results to the testing.

The site was set up by the governor and is the furthest COVID testing site west of the Connecticut River. Any resident of the state is able to attend the site to be tested, and Kathleen Auer of the Health Department explained that many people all over Western Mass has been coming to the site for testing. The site won’t turn people away as they understand that people need to get COVID testing done.



Cars lined up and wrapped around the COVID testing site set up at the Agawam Junior High School.

Photo by Shelby Macri

“There have been people driving in from all over the state, as we are the furthest site and closer to many people in the Western Massachusetts area. Those operating the site aren’t turning people away,” Auer said. “There have been a few people from Connecticut that have come to the site, and though they are supposed to attend a different site they are not being turned away due to the importance of testing.”

Many people need the testing done and to receive a negative test in order to return to work, return to high school/college, or in order to travel. No matter the reason they are getting the test done, they will be accepted at the Agawam site. The only things that the town of Agawam are in charge of, is providing the site and providing Police details during the duration of the

testing. Aside from those two things, the town of Agawam is not involved. “There have been a few people calling in and asking when they’ll get their results and how,” Auer said. “We’ve told them that the medical group is responsible for giving results, and we will not have them.” She further explained that there are two different groups conducting the testing and the result times vary depending on what lab they send the test to.

Some people have received their results within 24 hours of having the test done, while some people haven’t received their results after getting tested a week ago. People should stay patient and mindful that result time will vary, but as long as they verify their information on site they will receive their results. The testing is required on that State’s end in order to receive more

data on those who have it, those who don’t, and those who are asymptomatic. The time was changed to 3-6 p.m. because the days are getting shorter and the town wanted to accommodate for people who work during the day.

The site is also able to give as many tests as they have inventory for, they are not limited by the number of tests as they have prepared many people to come by. There have been more than 300 tests given within a day while the site has been open, and there were still plenty of tests left over. The medical groups are working hard to make sure that they can test as many people as possible. For anyone who needs or wants testing, they need to make sure they go before Sept. 10 as school will be starting soon after and the town will not be able to conduct testing at that site.

## Holyoke firefighter among academy graduates

SPRINGFIELD – State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) Director David C. Evans announced the graduation of the 15th class to complete the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy’s 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program at the Springfield campus on Aug. 14, 2020.

### 14 Graduates from 10 Fire Departments

The 14 graduates represent the 10 fire departments of Agawam, East Longmeadow, Easthampton, Granby, Holyoke, Ludlow, Southbridge, and Springfield.

“First responders are on the frontlines protecting their communities and these newest firefighters are needed more now than ever. We have taken advantage of technology, reduced class size to increase social distancing, implemented daily screening, and required mask-wearing to keep our instructors and students as safe as possible during these uncertain times,” said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. MFA Director Evans said, “This rigorous professional training provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely.”

“Being able to provide training closer to where western Massachusetts firefighters live and work has long been a goal of the Department of Fire Services and the fire service leadership,” he added. The MFA, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program, tuition-free.

### Today’s Firefighters Do Far More than Fight Fires

Today’s firefighters do far more than fight fires. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to a gas leak. They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice or who has locked himself in a bathroom. They rescue people from stalled elevators and those Career Recruit Firefighter Class #S15 Graduates Page 2 who are trapped in vehicle crashes. They test and maintain their equipment including self-contained

breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, hoses, power tools, and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, they learn all these skills and more from certified fire instructors who are also experienced firefighters. Students learn all the basic skills they need to respond to fires, to contain and to control them. They also receive training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, confined space rescue techniques, and rappelling. The intensive, ten-week program for municipal firefighters involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training, and live firefighting practice.

### Training Safely During Pandemic

In response to the pandemic, the 10-week curriculum was reorganized to take advantage of online learning technology while ensuring plenty of practical skill experience on-campus with instructors. Students alternated between the virtual classroom for two weeks, on campus for practical training (using special safeguards and social distancing) for four weeks, back to the virtual classroom for a week, returning to campus for two weeks and finishing the final week in the virtual classroom.

### Basic Firefighter Skills

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under nonfire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Recruit Program all students have met the national standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and are certified to the level of Firefighter I and II, and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operational Level by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.



A virtual comic-con type event will be held on Friday, Aug. 21.

Submitted photo

## Library to host virtual ‘comic-con’

HOLYOKE – Take your fandom to the next level at ACTIVATE, a brand new, fully virtual fan convention, completely free for Massachusetts teens between the ages of 12-20. Celebrate what you love while also interacting with a diverse group of artists, writers, voice actors, and other industry professionals. Learn how you can use your passions for anime, comics, writing, gaming and more to boost social justice.

Learn more and register at [activatelibcon.org](http://activatelibcon.org).

Brought to you by your local public libraries: Brockton Public Library, Lawrence Public Library, Peabody Institute Library in Peabody, Springfield City Library, Turner Free Library in Randolph, Ventress Memorial Library in Marshfield, Waltham Public Library, Worcester Public Library, and LITT, the Library Initiative for Teens and Tweens.

## Tapestry returns with more COVID testing

AGAWAM – Tapestry will be providing additional COVID-19 testing in Agawam to support Governor Baker’s Stop the Spread testing initiative. “This is a critical time to ramp up testing in order to contain the virus and hopefully avoid the secondary surges that have happened in other states,” said Cheryl Zoll, Tapestry CEO.

Testing will be drive-through, free, and available for both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. Testing will be done via a self-administered nasal swab and results will be available within 48 hours. Appointments and pre-registration are encouraged, but walk-ins will not be

turned away if there is capacity. Please call (413)364-2149 for scheduling. More information available at [tapestryhealth.org](http://tapestryhealth.org) or [mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread](http://mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread)

Where: Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01001

When: Testing will be offered from 3pm to 6pm on dates listed below

- Thursday, August 20th, 2020
- Tuesday, August 25th, 2020
- Thursday August 27th, 2020
- Tuesday, September 1st, 2020
- Thursday, September 3rd, 2020
- Tuesday, September 8th, 2020
- Thursday, September 10th, 2020

## Grants for nonprofits impacted by COVID-19

SPRINGFIELD – The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts has announced its next stage of its COVID-19 response effort in the Pioneer Valley, launching stabilization

grants for nonprofits that have been financially impacted by the pandemic. With these new stabilization grants,

See GRANTS, page 2



# Receiver addresses school re-opening remotely

Dear Holyoke Public School Community,

As a community, we approach a new school year that will look, sound, and feel much different than any other. Based on the science, we know that COVID-19 will continue to evolve, hence information provided by local, state, and federal health agencies will also continue to change. With that said, we need to reevaluate and reimagine teaching and learning and how we can best support and engage with our students and families.

As you recall, back in March, the entire state had to cease in-person instruction and pivot to remote learning. This was truly no easy task for anyone involved, but I must say HPS should be proud of what they accomplished. Students' holistic needs were met by providing devices and connectivity for ongoing learning, access to healthy meals, and other essential needs.

This summer, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner Jeffrey Riley asked school districts to design three learning models: remote learning, in-person learning, hybrid learning (a combination of in-person and remote learning). Our Reopening Leadership Team and committees have worked diligently to resume teaching and learning with safety and equity for all, across each learning model. Our team reviewed the latest medical research and educational guidance and gathered feedback from all stakeholders via surveys, Facebook Live sessions, e-mails, and meetings.

The Holyoke Public Schools return-to-school plan reflects our careful planning efforts, with recognition that we must regularly review and adapt our plan based on new guidance and feedback from our students, teachers, staff, and

families. We will monitor health metrics throughout the year to help us make decisions about whether and when to bring more students back to school.

In response to family, student, staff, and community feedback and due to the current health environment in Holyoke, the majority of HPS students will start the school year remotely. In order to ensure that the students who need the most get the most, we have selected K-12 students for whom in-person instruction is most essential, and their families will have the option to choose in-person or fully remote learning. This group of students includes Career and Vocational Technical Education (Dean Campus) students, students with disabilities in substantially separate classrooms, and English Learners defined as Newcomers. Newcomers are students who have newly arrived (two years or less) to the mainland U.S. or are new to English dominant instruction. Throughout the year, we will consider adding students for whom remote learning is less conducive. We plan to contact families of selected students by August 31 and strongly encourage them to consider in-person learning.

We learned a lot from our remote learning efforts in Spring 2020. With more time to prepare and clear guidance from DESE, remote learning for SY20-21 will look much different. In particular, we would like to highlight:

- All students, teachers, paraprofessionals and instructional staff will have their own device. The Internet will be provided to students who need it.
- Students will follow a daily synchronous (live) learning schedule with Holyoke teachers and staff that will closely mirror traditional class schedules. The majority of students' time will be spent with educators and will include a

combination of direct teacher instruction, student collaboration time, and independent student work time while the teacher confers with individual students.

- The district will use SeeSaw in grades PreK-2 and Google Classroom in grades 3-12 as the learning management systems (LMS). Zoom is the video conferencing platform for live classes.
- Advisory Groups (PreK-8) and Learning Squads (9-12) will promote high student engagement and provide individualized support.
- Breakfast and lunch will be available for pick-up at many locations three times per week.

As previously mentioned, select students will attend school in-person for some of the weeks during the first term and beyond. Staff who are teaching students in remote learning may also choose to teach from their classroom. In order to keep students and staff as safe as possible, HPS will implement a detailed plan which includes:

- A personal responsibility pledge to stay home when ill and follow all other precautions, required of each student, family and staff member.
- Masks required for all staff and students in grades PreK-12, unless prevented due to a medical condition or behavior concern. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff members, especially those who work with the most vulnerable students.
- Social distancing in classrooms of at least 6-feet and smaller groups of students in each classroom.
- Enhanced cleaning procedures, including cleaning high-touch surfaces multiple times a day, regular cleaning daily and deep cleaning between cohorts of students.
- Proper ventilation and classes outdoors at the discretion of teachers to pro-

- mote fresh air.
- Staff training on new safety and health procedures.
- Extremely restricted access to all buildings by non-HPS employees.
- Quick access to COVID-19 testing through local testing sites.
- Contact tracing to quickly inform students, families, and staff if possible exposure to COVID-19 has occurred.

School will begin for students in grades 1-12 on Monday, September 14, and for students in grades PreK and Kindergarten on Monday, September 21. The revised SY20-21 calendar is available on our website. We will have a staggered start for in-person learning for select students.

In particular, I want to thank our teachers, nurses, and other school-based staff who are on the front lines educating and supporting our students. I look forward to working with all of you to revise our plan based on public health data and stakeholder feedback to best meet the needs of our students, family and staff. The physical health, mental health, and safety of our students and staff is our top priority.

This year ahead will undoubtedly be a challenging one for us all. However, we are HPS strong! I am confident that together we will respond to these challenges with flexibility, patience, grace, and commitment.

Our full return-to-school plan is available on the return to school webpage. (Note: The plan is available today via google translate and will be formally translated next week.) FAQs will also be posted next week. You may also contact us with questions through the Contact Us Form on our website (<https://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/about-us/contact/>) or by text/phone on our hotline at 413.561.0862.

## COALITION, from page 3

the Foundation is also committing to a multi-year approach to focus on the resilience, re-envisioning and rebuilding of nonprofits in the region.

Applications for are currently being accepted, and the deadline for applications is Sept.1. Maximum grant awards will be \$50,000 and will provide for up to six months of operation.

Organizations with various missions and target populations will be eligible to apply for Stabilization Grants, though organizations that serve the most vulnerable populations in the region, work to advance equity and opportunity and have deep roots in the community will be prioritized.

In the coming months, CFWM will provide workshops and trainings to assist nonprofits as they evolve to remain active and viable during and post COVID-19.

The Foundation will also commit a portion of funding to support organizations whose missions align with the CFWM's strategic priorities for the coming years: A strong start for all children through high-quality early education and care; accessible and more affordable post-secondary education and training, providing pathways to completion and employment; and a vibrant local arts and creativity ecosystem to support self-expression, economic vitality, and connection.

The grants serve as a next phase to CFWM's COVID-19 Response Fund for the Pioneer Valley, which to date has awarded more than \$6 million in grants to nonprofits in Western Massachusetts that are on the front lines of serving vulnerable populations affected by the crisis.

To learn more about CFWM's Stabilization Grants and to apply, visit <http://communityfoundation.org/covid-funding-application/>.

# Curbside services offered for animals

SPRINGFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services is rising to the challenges presented by COVID-19, continuing to innovate for the health of Massachusetts pets. Last month the nonprofit's three veterinary hospitals found a way to safely restore lifesaving vaccine clinics and put a plan in place to cut down on the significant backlog of pets waiting for spay/neuter surgery.

Second Chance had to put their popular weekly vaccine clinics on hold indefinitely in March to safeguard the health of pet owners and staff. In July, they slowly rolled out a new format where pet owners pre-register and arrive at their reserved time slot. "We thought this was a temporary fix, but pet owners loved the new format," reports Second Chance Chief Operating Officer Amanda Normandin. "No more waiting in line, no more filling out paperwork while minding a pet, and so much less stress on the pets."

The nonprofit's low-cost spay/neuter program continues to face a backlog of pets waiting due to an almost 3-month suspension. The wait for cats is especially significant, so in July the North Brookfield location began scheduling catch up days, starting with a 50 male cat day. Second Chance surgeons are specially trained in high-volume spay/neuter, but typically see a mix of female cats and dogs each day resulting in extra time spent resetting between cats and dogs and male and female. Concentrating on a single surgery format allows veterinary staff to help more pets in one day.

Second Chance CEO Sheryl Blancato says she's grateful to be able to restore these two important programs. "As the pandemic began to close down Massachusetts, we began to worry about a second health crisis. Vaccine clinics are instrumental in stopping the spread of rabies and parvo and suspending this program weighed heavily



A recent patient returning to their owner after being seen at Second Chance's North Brookfield Community Veterinary Hospital.

Submitted photo

on my mind." Blancato said she expects the backlog of pets waiting for the spay/neuter program to continue throughout the remainder of 2020. "There are still hundreds of applications awaiting scheduling at each of our locations. We are doing everything we can to get caught up and ask for continued patience."

Pet owners interested in registering their pet for an upcoming vaccine clinic can visit [secondchanceanimals.org](http://secondchanceanimals.org) or watch the Second Chance Animal Services Facebook for registration announcements. The spay/neuter SPOT application,

which stands for Stop Pet Overpopulation Today, can also be found on the website. Second Chance is scheduling spay and neuter appointments in the order they were received, so new applicants may not receive a call until September or later. The vaccine clinics and spay/neuter program are available at all Second Chance Community Veterinary Hospitals with locations in North Brookfield, Springfield and Worcester. Full-service veterinary care is also available by appointment, and subsidized rates are available for qualified households.



Social Security Matters

Virtues of claiming benefits early

By Russell Gloor  
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: It seems like we are always encouraged to wait until our full retirement age or age 70 to claim our Social Security. For me, benefits at age 62 were a good jump start to my retirement. How about listing the many benefits to early (age 62) retirement? And at what age does it become a liability, if ever? Signed: Happily retired at age 78

Dear Happily Retired: You're correct that most financial advisors and Social Security advisors, including me, frequently encourage people to delay claiming Social Security until at least their full retirement age (FRA). And that's because far too many claim their benefits as soon as they are available at age 62 "because it's there," without evaluating whether that's a smart move for them personally. There are many reasons why it's best to wait, but there are also some very good reasons for claiming benefits at age 62. Let's explore those.

Claiming at age 62 is exactly the right move if you are in poor health and don't expect to live a long life. Benefits taken age 62 are 25% less for those with a full retirement

See BENEFITS, page 5



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Letters to the Editor

Bartley best man to take Vega's house seat

Dear Editor:

Sept. 1 will bring people to the polls unusually early this year. Below senate and congress is a race not getting much attention yet could be the most important on the ballot to all residents of Holyoke. We will elect a new state representative. I cannot think of a better person to fill that seat than David Bartley.

Dave has fought tirelessly for the people of Ward 3 and Holyoke in general for the last 8 years. If we can bring that intensity along with the working knowledge of politics, and the intelligence of an attorney it would pay our long-neglected city nothing but dividends.

I might or might not be voting for senator. I will be voting for congress, but what is really bringing me to the polls on Sept. 1 is the race for state rep. If you join me in voting for David Bartley, I am confident that finally Holyoke will get its fair share.

Marc Hickey

Morse not right for congressional seat

Dear Editor:

As Mayor Morse seeks your vote in the first congressional district race, I think it is important that you know some facts about what he has done as mayor of Holyoke.

He has failed to attend meetings both for the school committee which he chaired as well as those invited to attend by the city council. He also failed to attend meetings intended to unite the community after the failed school override vote, and after two neighborhood murders.

As Mayor LaChapelle of Easthampton has stated, he has failed to work cooperatively with the city council. How can we expect him to work cooperatively with other legislators in Washington?

He has also misused or abused his authority in several instances. He disrespected Holyoke's veterans by placing a plaque in Veteran's Park for a developer not even from Holyoke. Only the public outcry made him move the plaque out of the park dedicated to Holyoke Veterans who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

On personnel matters, his campaign treasurer has been appointed to the highest paying job during the Covid-19 crisis, and his

brother has been appointed for three different positions within city government.

Despite indicating his interest and support to provide funding to demolish more of our decaying buildings, which has been endorsed by the entire city council, he has not acted. We continue to have multiple building collapses, but he still chooses to wait.

Despite being informed that AED devices were available to be installed in city buildings last fall and could be installed after staff received training, those same life saving devices are still in storage.

He also has failed to get projects done in a timely manner. When the city pool was shut down after the summer of 2014, the hope was that we might have a new pool by the summer of 2016 or 2017. But even after funding it in late 2017, the mayor failed to get the project done until this June. Chicopee had their pool within two years.

These are the facts behind his 8 plus years as mayor. Is that the record of someone you believe can work cooperatively with other members of congress to get things done?

Terence Murphy  
Ward 2 City Councilor

A Quote

OF NOTE

"Money and success don't change people; they merely amplify what is already there."

Will Smith

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



Each week, The Holyoke Sun will feature a photo of a distinctive place, landmark, sculpture, sign or other recognizable object located somewhere in the city.

Think you know what or where it is? Readers are encouraged to submit their guesses to "Hidden in Holyoke" via email to TheSun@Turley.com. In order to qualify for the weekly contest, entries must be received by Wednesday at noon for inclusion into Friday's edition. Please include your full name with your guess in an email to TheSun@turley.com. If more than one correct answer is received, the names of all those who submitted guesses will be listed. For more information, contact The Holyoke Sun at 413-283-8398.

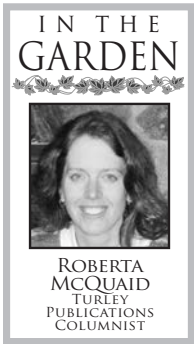
Last week's "Hidden in Holyoke" was the HCC Culinary building.



Tender herbs need not disappear with the first frost

As we approach Labor Day, my mind drifts back to an article I read as a teenager, long before I was ever the Garden Lady. It talked about extending the life of tender herbs, plants like rosemary, scented geraniums, fruity sages and the like that don't survive a New England winter. Up until that point, I would dig these plants up before the first hard frost and try overwintering them in my house. Not an easy feat when living in a well-insulated ranch style home. We did OK, even managing to keep a rosemary alive for several years in a row, but there was a better, more space-conscious way to save these plants from Jack Frost. Simply take a cutting!

Getting a piece of stem to form roots is relatively easy. Here are a few tips that will guarantee your success. First, make sure that the plant you are taking the cuttings from, called the "stock plant," is insect and disease-free and well hydrated. Plan to take cuttings in the morning before the heat of the day has a chance to cause



any wilting. A clean, sharp pair of scissors or hand pruners is the best tool for the job. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season, but keep in mind that the closer it gets to frost, the more difficult it will be to get it to root. Like us, the plant is preparing for winter so act soon!

Begin by examining your stock plant. Those stems with the closest placed nodes are the best choice for cutting material. Nodes are the point on the stem from which the leaves grow. There is a strong accumulation of hormones in this area; for that reason stem cuttings are taken just after a node. Terminal cuttings from the growth tip, which are three to four inches long are desirable. It is tempting to take longer pieces, figuring that the end result will be a larger plant. These are likely to wilt before they root or take a very long time to root because the stems are woodier the further down you go. Play it safe with stout cuttings.

There are all kinds of potting medi-

ums in which to place the cutting while it grows roots. Ideally it should be able to hold enough moisture to keep the cutting turgid yet not hold so much that it rots the stem. Sand, perlite and soilless potting mixes have all been used with success. Water is not recommended as "watery roots" will have a harder time adapting to potting soil later on. I have had good luck rooting cuttings in peat-based potting mixes that are formulated for seed starting. Moisten the material well and fill your clean container of choice up to the top and tamp it down.

Take only a few cuttings at a time so that wilting doesn't occur while you prepare the stems for insertion into the growing medium. Strip off the bottom one-third of leaves from the cutting. If you wish to shorten the amount of time it takes for rooting to occur, a commercial rooting hormone can be used. These come in powder or liquid forms. Follow the directions on the container. I have found that "less is more" when using these products.

When you are ready to "stick" the cutting make an indentation into the growing medium with a pencil or dibble first;

do not push in with the stem! After the cutting is inserted firm around it well so that it stays in place. Put the container, cuttings and all in a clear plastic bag and place in a shady location. The humidity within the bag ought to prevent the stems from wilting. Water well, only about once weekly. After a month or so roots will begin to form on the scented geraniums; rosemary and lavender may take six weeks or more. Sweet bay is even slower; it should be rooted within six months.

Transplanting into individual pots can be done once the roots equal or surpass the size of the cutting. With some luck and good cultural practices through the winter months you will likely have a garden-ready replacement for your favorite tender herbs come springtime.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

BENEFITS, from page 4

age (FRA) of 66, and 30% less if your FRA is 67. But those reductions become insignificant if you don't expect to live a long, healthy life from that point forward. If you wait until your FRA, it takes about 12 years to collect the same amount in total benefits as if you had claimed at age 62.

Even if you are in decent health now, if your family history and your lifestyle suggest less than average longevity, claiming before your FRA, as early as 62, may be a prudent choice. By "lifestyle" I mean, for example, whether you exercise regularly, smoke or drink excessively or drive without a seatbelt. There are several life expectancy calculators available which can assist with predicting your life expectancy by evaluating your family history and lifestyle, including those available at this website: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/>. Just remember that no one can accurately forecast how long they will live but making an informed decision on when to claim should consider your estimated longevity, among other things.

If collecting your Social Security benefits early is needed to help pay for life's necessities, such as food, housing, and out-of-pocket medical costs, then claiming as early as age 62, or any other time before your FRA, could be exactly the right choice. In other words, the need for the money now is a driving force in deciding when to claim.

Which brings me to your point that claiming at age 62 was a "jump start" to your retirement, allowing you to begin enjoying your golden years much earlier than you might have otherwise been able to. There's a lot to be said for taking benefits early to fulfill your bucket list while you're still young enough to enjoy it. And, from your signature, it looks like you've been putting that extra Social Security money to good use for many years now. Good for you! Now, at age 78, you've reached your "breakeven point" where, if you had waited until your FRA to claim, your cumulative lifetime benefits would hereafter be more than they will be because you claimed at 62. That may not, however, offset the many years of happy retirement you've been able to enjoy because you took

your benefits early.

In the end, deciding when to claim Social Security should be done after carefully evaluating your personal situation. Anyone who claims benefits before their full retirement age must beware of Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before your benefits are affected. But those who can afford to wait and who expect to live to a ripe old age would do well to consider delaying until their full retirement age, or even beyond, to claim their Social Security benefits. If their life expectancy is at least "average" they'll collect much more in cumulative lifetime benefits by doing so.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website at [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org).

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular musical awards show

5. Speech in one's honor

11. A state of poor nutrition

14. Not ingested

15. More lacking in taste

18. "Popeye" cartoonist

19. Helps to reduce speed

21. January 1 greeting (abbr.)

23. Georgian currency

24. Proverb expressing a truth

28. Jewish calendar month

29. Volume measurement

30. Fair-skinned

32. Patti Hearst's captors

33. Have already done

35. Touch lightly

36. Autonomic nervous system

39. Plant part

41. College degree

42. Military alliance

44. Tokyo's former name

46. Carpenter's tool

47. Before

49. Consent to receive

52. Passages

56. The Duke of Edinburgh

58. Utter repeatedly

60. Linked together in a chain

62. Quality that evokes pity

63. Maintained possession of

CLUES DOWN

1. U.S. military school

2. Controls

3. Away from wind

4. Grab quickly

5. Being everlasting

6. Vase

7. Atomic #3

8. Type of medication

9. Encircle with a belt

10. Belonging to you

12. American state

13. City in Zambia

16. Good Gosh!

17. Of the country

20. Helsinki district

22. 36 inches

25. Reporters' group

26. The voice of Olaf

27. Explains in detail

29. Tooth caregiver

31. One point south of due east

34. Scottish river

36. Elsa's sister

37. Civil Rights group

38. Line of poetry

40. Doctor

43. Fatty acid

45. Avatar (abbr.)

48. Awe-inspiring garden

50. Fall down

51. Rock icon Turner

53. Asian country (alt. sp.)

54. UK museum network

55. Stairs have at least one

57. Part of (abbr.)

58. Simpson trial judge

59. Sun up in New York

61. Exclamation of surprise

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 11

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# Rapid Planning Phase of Soldiers’ Home project begins

BOSTON - The Baker-Polito Administration on Monday announced that a vendor has been selected and has started work on an expedited capital project to reimagine the future of the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke. Payette has been awarded the contract for the first phase of the expedited capital project, the Rapid Planning Phase, which consists of completing a needs assessment and conducting stakeholder engagement. This work will inform the development of the implementation plan to meet the April 15, 2021 federal Veterans’ Affairs’ State Home Construction Grant application deadline.

Payette’s 12-week engagement work will identify a sustainable, public health-centered, implementation roadmap to provide significant upgrades to the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home.

“Our administration is committed to supporting important facility improvements for the Soldiers’ Home to ensure the facility can provide the best care possible for the veteran residents who have served our country with honor,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “We look forward to this next phase of these planned

upgrades which include both immediate infection control solutions and long-term improvements.”

“This capital improvement project provides an opportunity to reimagine the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home to meet the current and future needs of our rapidly diversifying veteran population,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “It’s a critical priority for the Commonwealth as we seek to ensure the heroes who have served our country are able to access the very best care possible.”

“We have a unique opportunity to shift the models of long-term care that we offer to our veterans, following the pandemic that has shined a spotlight on necessary and urgent infection control needs,” said Acting Veterans’ Services Secretary Cheryl Lussier Poppe. “We look forward to the continued progress that will be made at the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke, ensuring our most vulnerable demographic of veterans are cared for in the safest, and most appropriate environment.”

“We are continuing to move forward with our comprehensive planning process for making necessary capital

improvements at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home,” said Secretary of Administration and Finance Michael J. Heffernan. “This upcoming work and our continued collaboration with state, local and legislative partners will help ensure the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home accommodates the current and future needs of Massachusetts veterans.”

“We are pleased to be partnering with Payette for this rapid planning process,” said DCAMM Commissioner Carol Gladstone. “They bring a great understanding of the needs and issues our veterans are facing today.”

The scope of work includes four key elements:

1. Update needs assessment: Develop an updated needs assessment to include current and future demographic needs of veterans in Massachusetts.

2. Engage stakeholders: Using a variety of methods, gather input from a broad base of stakeholders to develop strategic guidelines for transforming the Home, including veterans and their family members, staff and management, members of the Board of Trustees, federal and state legislative leaders, local offi-

cials and interest groups, veteran advocates, and administration officials.

3. Prioritize infection control: Review and evaluate ongoing infection control measures and infrastructure upgrades to ensure the highest standards are met in light of the pandemic.

4. Explore feasible implementation scenarios: Outline up to three scenarios with order-of-magnitude cost estimates, financing options, and realistic timelines for regulatory approvals, design, and construction.

While the expedited capital project will address long-term facility viability, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), the Department of Veterans’ Services (DVS) and the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) have been addressing immediate capital needs, including a \$6 million refresh of units, to significantly improve infection control for the residents and staff. The refresh includes refinishing the living and working environment to support infection control, including the installation of air purification units.

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# SPORTS

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## New guidance from state would allow fall sports

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – With new guidance out from the state and several of its agencies, it appears there will be an avenue to play high school sports this fall, though a number of them may not be in the form people will be used to.

And “people” may not be allowed to watch them.

Last week, more guidance was issued involving the return to school for students, with Gov. Charlie Baker putting out a new map that uses a traffic signal system to deem certain communities at low, moderate, or higher risk for coronavirus positive test rates.

Baker further recommended that the majority of communities, which are in either the green or alternate white category with almost no positive tests in the past two weeks, should return to school full time.

Only two Western Mass. communities were labeled as “high-risk” in Granby and Holyoke. It is not known if

Baker and state health officials or the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association will use the map to exclude school districts in high-risk communities from being able to play.

Meanwhile, the MIAA’s COVID-19 Task Force, the Sports Medicine Committee, and other agencies are work-

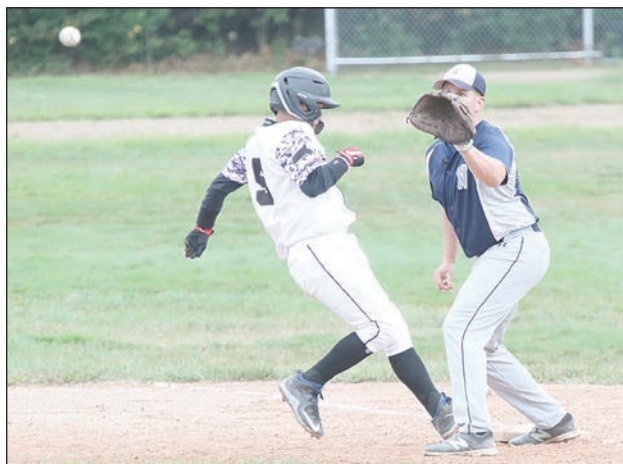
ing with the state to make modifications to certain sports in order to be able to have contests this fall.

Among the sports that are likely to be played are field hockey, cross country, golf, and girls volleyball.

The sports will have to

See *SPORTS*, page 8

### BASEBALL ACTION



The Western Mass. Wood Bat League, an age 25-and-over league that typically plays from April through August followed by fall league in September and October, was able to start playing in early July and has remained in action since the beginning of Phase 3. Last Sunday morning, the Sultans and Wildcats played a close game at Whitney Park in Ludlow, with the Wildcats prevailing 4-3. Players in the league come from all over the Western Mass. region.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

## Rameau picks up big Tri Track win

WINCHESTER, N.H. — Sam Rameau used a pass of Ron Silk in the second half of Saturday’s Tri Track Open Modified Series race at Monadnock Speedway to seal the deal.

The Westminster, Massachusetts, native earned his first career Tri Track win in thrilling fashion, holding off some of the country’s best Modified talent over the final stretch of the third race of the season.

Rameau pocketed a \$6,000 check with the victory as part of a lucrative purse that was over \$40,000. It was the second stop of the season at the Winchester, New Hampshire, oval for Tri Track.

“We put a lot of work into this,” Rameau said. “A lot of people don’t know that it’s my full-time job to prepare these race cars. I put my heart and

soul into this. The emotions are high.”

The final corner was nearly a repeat of the July 5 Tri Track race at Monadnock. While Rameau took the top spot from Silk on lap 72, and looked to be driving off to vic-

tory, a caution flag with just four laps to go doubled the field back up. Rameau spun his tires on the restart, but got away, before another quick caution stopped the action.

See *TRACK* page ??



Brian Robie placed second in the Tri Track race last weekend at Monadnock Speedway.

Submitted photo

## Soccer moved to ‘moderate risk’ category

*With the change, soccer could be played this fall with modifications*

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – At the beginning of the summer, soccer, basketball, football, and lacrosse were deemed “high-risk” sports.

These determinations were made at the beginning of July, when Phase 3 of Gov. Charlie Baker’s re-opening plan started.

The designation banned any type of contests from being played, an only allowed for non-contact, socially distant workouts.

Now, soccer has been

quietly moved to the “moderate risk” category, paving the way for games in one of the most popular sports in the region to be played.

Last year, Western Massachusetts was well-represented in the state finals, with Westfield, South Hadley, Belchertown all being represented. South Hadley girls, and Belchertown boys soccer both were state champions and were looking forward to defending those titles this fall before the pandemic stopped sports from being played.

Because of the original Phase 3 determinations, the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League was unable to play games, eliminating any chance for area high

See *SOCCKER*, page 8



# Owl Tournament raises funds for WSU sports

WESTFIELD – The 14th Annual Owl Club Golf Tournament brought together Westfield State athletics alumni, parents, coaches and sponsors for a day of fundraising and fun at the Ranch Golf Club on Monday, Aug. 3.

Westfield Bank served as the lead sponsor of the event, joined by Whalley Computer Associates, Barnes and Noble College Bookstores, and Real Dry Waterproofing.

A group that included football alumni Wayne McGillicuddy, Eric Washburn, Dan Letteriello and friend Corey Nevins won the tournament with a 13-under par 59. The group eagled the first hole after McGillicuddy hit an

approach shot two inches from the cup, and never looked back en route to the standout round of the day.

Women’s lacrosse coach Jeff Pechulis’ group took second with a score of 60, partnering with Peter Clark, and lacrosse parents Paul Barrett and Sean Gearin. They won a match of cards with a group featuring alumni Jack Mosko, Matt Barry and Richard Joseph.

Current Owls’ baseball player Sean Moorhouse topped the men’s long drive competition on 16, and Katie Sylvain won the women’s long drive. Don Cretella and Jack Sheerin won the closest to the pin contests.

A total of 22 groups and 88 players registered for the event, which was held in a slightly different format in order to make concessions to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

“We moved to a tee-time format to avoid a big crowd at registration, so that the players streamed through in 1’s and 2’s, and many of the players took advantage of our online registration, which helped to limit contact and cash handling at the event itself,” said Dave Caspole, Associate Director of Athletics. “Each player had an individual cart, all the staff and players wore masks at registration, and we served lunch on the course so that we could

avoid having a crowd in any one area. The staff at the Ranch did a great job in helping us set up safe protocols that still let our players come out and enjoy a great day on the course.”

“It was great to have a chance to see so many alumni and friends come out to support Owls’ athletics,” said Caspole. “We will total about \$14,000 raised to support our varsity athletic teams today, which is great considering we had to reduce the field due to the pandemic, and some of our regular participants were not able to travel this year, but we look forward to having a full field again next year if we are back to a more normal mode of operations.”

## Baseball clinics to take place in August

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with the John Murphy Youth Baseball League will be conducting baseball clinics. To sign up for the clinic, please contact Coach Terry Murphy at [tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net](mailto:tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net).

Clinics will follow all of the board of health requirements regarding masks, spacing and cleaning of equipment. Players with their own bats and helmets or catcher’s gear are encouraged to bring to the clinic.

Potential Baseball Clinics Schedule

All clinics to take place at Mackenzie Field

Free of charge for Holyoke residents, \$10 for non-residents

Wednesday, August 12	1	0
a.m. – 12 noon (age group 7-10)		
Wednesday, August 12		
5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 14-17)		
Thursday, August 13	5:45	
p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 11-13)		

Monday, August 17	10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 7-10)
Wednesday, August 19	10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 11-13)
Wednesday, August 19	5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 14-17)
Thursday, August 20	5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 7-10)
Wednesday, August 26	10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 14-17)
Wednesday, August 26	5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 11-13)

Clinics will be run by former Holyoke Community College baseball coach Terry Murphy. He will be assisted by Bob Prattico, former Holyoke Catholic coach, Mike Afflitto, Smith Academy coach, and Mike Prattico, Amherst High School coach. Added to the coaching staff is Dioni Soriano Bello, a former player in Japan and Latin America. They will also be assisted by several former high school players as well. A trainer will also be on hand for each session.

## SPORTS, from page 7

be played with various social distancing and mask requirements, such as for coaches, officials, and players on the bench. There will also be contact restrictions and other modifications these sports will have to adopt in order to have contests. The exact modifications will be determined in the next few weeks.

One thing that will not happen is the return of sports before students return to school, in whatever form that is.

The MIAA will vote on a recommendation from the Sports Medicine Committee not to start practices until school has started.

“We determined that it did not really make sense to have extracurricular activities before getting the kids back in school,” said one committee member.

As of now, Sept. 16 is a date that has been floated around for a start to

practices. This could still put the start of contests around Oct. 1. Teams would likely play a modified season with fewer games, something that was going to be attempted with spring sports before the governor shut down schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

One sport that may not be played, however, is football.

Because of the amount of close contact, many modifications to the game have been recommended, including no tackling or otherwise any contact. It is essentially being suggested that Massachusetts schools play touch-only football this fall.

The MIAA is considering a number of possibilities, including deferring the season to a point in the year where it could be played with fewer restrictions.

All of the committees will be meeting in the near future to discuss the most recent guidance from the state.

## Paik wins Amateur golf championship

ESSEX – Allison Paik, 18, of Ledgesmont Country Club, has defeated Anne Walsh, 18, of The Country Club, by a score of 7&6 to win the 117th Massachusetts Amateur Championship following Friday’s 18-hole Championship Match at Essex County Club in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts. It’s the largest margin of victory in the Championship Match in the past decade.

Both players have committed to playing for Columbia University’s women’s golf team.

This is the first Women’s Amateur Championship win for Paik, a Sharon resident who graduated Wheeler School in Providence. Paik never had to play all 18 holes in her four match play contests. She played a combined 56 holes in those matches, winning 25 of them.

Walsh, of Jamaica Plain, finished runner-up for the second consecutive year. Last year, she lost to Angela Garvin in the Championship Match, 4&3. This year, she won Mass Golf’s Ouimet Memorial Tournament champion and finished runner-up at the Massachusetts Girls’ Junior Amateur Championship.

In Semifinal matches this morning, Walsh defeated Rebecca Skoler (Pine Brook Country Club) in 21 holes, and Paik defeated Mary Mulcahy (Hatherly Country Club), 4&3.

Match Summary: Allison Paik put on a stellar putting performance as she won five holes with five birdies on the front nine, including three of the first four holes. She needed to play just three more holes to close out the match. On the 12th hole, Walsh overshot the green and missed her par attempt. That allowed Paik to chip on and then make her par putt.

President’s Cup: Alexandra Pool (Pine Brook Country Club) won the President’s Cup for the first time. Pool, 15, a Boston native, defeated Wellesley’s Pam Kuong (Charles River Country Club), 2&1, closing the match out with a par on the 17th hole. Kuong, 59, won the 2019 Mass Golf Anne Marie Tobin Women’s Player of the Year Award.

The President’s Cup consisted of players who finished 17-32 in stroke play qualifying, which took place Tuesday and Wednesday. The Championship Flight featured players seeded 1-16.

## SOCCKER, from page 7

schoolers to prepare for the fall season. However, if the MIAA makes a determination for what sports will play and when, it could open the door for captains practices to take place provided the players follow the rules.

This fall was supposed to be the final Western Mass. tournament sponsored by the MIAA before the system goes to a statewide tournament.

A proposal for a Western Mass. tournament sponsored by the PVIAC has been placed on the back burner until the pandemic is over.

The state was scheduled to make

public some of the guidance for return to play for soccer this week. The MIAA’s COVID-19 Task Force, Tournament Management Committee, and Sports Medicine Committees will all make recommendations to the MIAA Board of Directors on the best way to proceed for soccer once all the guidance has been issued and has an opportunity to be evaluated for feasibility.

With the current timeline in place, it is likely the soccer season, typically 16-18 games in Western Massachusetts, will be reduced to 10-12 games and could be limited to certain geographic areas to limit travel.

## TRACK, from page 9

Although Rameau hit the final restart perfectly, he couldn’t quite get away from Ronnie Williams.

Williams, the two-time and defending SK Modified champion at Stafford Motor Speedway, drove deep into turn three, slammed the back of the No. 06 Central Mass Tree machine of Rameau, and lost control. Williams would spin as the car dropped fluid, while the rest of the field rushed to find a way around. Some made it, some didn’t.

Monadnock Speedway NHSTRA Modified regular Brian Robie escaped the final corner carnage to finish second, while Matt Hirschman, a winner at Star Speedway on July 25, finished

third. Woody Pitkat drove the Stan Mertz prepared No. 6 to a fourth-place finish, with Anthony Nocella finishing the top-five. Matthew Kimball was sixth, followed by Craig Lutz, Ron Silk, Carl Medeiros Jr. and Austin Kochenash.

Thirty-one cars attempted to qualify for the Monadnock 100, with 26 of them taking the green flag in the feature. Austin Kochenash, Brian Robie, Matt Hirschman and Kirk Alexander picked up an extra \$300 each for winning heat races part of the Pepsi Challenge. Woody Pitkat would collect the Hard Charger award courtesy of Green Construction, a \$500 bonus.

The Tri Track Open Modified Series returns to the track on Saturday, October 24, with the series debut

at Stafford Motor Speedway in Connecticut. The announcement of the Stafford event was made on Saturday in the drivers meeting. The Stafford Springs Modified Classic will round out the 2020 slate for Tri Track.

For more information on the Tri Track Open Modified Series, visit [trackmodifieds.com](http://trackmodifieds.com) and follow the series on social media.

RESULTS: Tri Track Open Modified Series; Monadnock Speedway; August 15, 2020:

1. Sam Rameau
2. Brian Robie
3. Matt Hirschman
4. Woody Pitkat
5. Anthony Nocella
6. Matt Kimball
7. Craig Lutz

8. Ron Silk
9. Carl Medeiros Jr.
10. Austin Kochenash
11. Les Hinckley
12. Matt Swanson
13. Tommy Barrett
14. Ronnie Williams
15. Richard Savary
16. Kirk Alexander
17. Dave Sapienza
18. Cameron Sontag
19. TJ Bleau
20. Derek Robbie
21. Calvin Carroll
22. Ben Byrne
23. Ryan Doucette
24. Chase Dowling
25. Chris Pasteryak
26. Anthony Sesely
27. Kurt Vigeant



# Virtual 5K to benefit Soldier On scheduled

REGION – Due to the ongoing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Dynamics Soldier On Golf Tournament Committee has decided to postpone the 10th Annual Golf Tournament until the summer of 2021. This was a difficult decision, but necessary as we greatly value our loyal sponsors, players, volunteers, and community as a whole. It was a risk too great to take.

That said, General Dynamics Soldier On Golf Tournament Committee has shown an overwhelming recommitment to the cause of wanting to support Soldier On.

Starting on Monday, September

28 through Sunday, October 4, General Dynamics Mission Systems – Pittsfield, is hosting the Soldier On Virtual 5K! You are invited to register for the 5K Run/Walk/Jog, the September Cash Calendar, the Soldier On Jacket OR YETI Tumbler, or to bundle all three! To bundle make sure to click here.

Last year’s golf tournament raised over \$59,000 for Soldier On, which was only possible with your participation and generosity! The funds raised will go toward ending veteran homelessness in the Berkshires and beyond. Soldier On significantly contributes to the improvement of the community and all proceeds from the event will directly benefit veter-

ans who have served our country.

5K participants will have the option to register for one of the categories below and will have the whole week to run/walk/jog the event on their own time.

Participants will be required to register and use the JustMove app to compete, as this tool will track your time, distance, and placement.

Men’s/Women’s Race: First place winners will be ranked based on best times as recorded by the JustMove app and will receive a prize.

Teams Race: Teams must consist of 4 participants. Times identified in the JustMove app will be combined after the final race day is complete and the First

Place Team will receive a prize.

Just For Fun Race: This option is for those not looking to compete, but rather participate in the 5K for fun. A prize for this race type will be given out at random.

Please visit the SO5K Facebook Page and help us share this wonderful event for an even greater cause. We will be providing additional event information on our Facebook Page such as the Dine to Donate program, swag pictures, jacket sizes, fun routes in the Berkshires, and more. We hope you tag us in your race pictures. Questions? Contact us. For registration, call Nick Bourdon (413) 464-3063.

# Baystate Health announces new visitor check-in policy

SPRINGFIELD – For the continued safety of patients, visitors and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, effective Monday, Aug. 3, all Baystate Health hospitals will be implementing a visitor check-in log as part of its visitation policy.

Visitors to Baystate Medical Center and Baystate Children’s Hospital in Springfield, Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, Baystate Noble Hospital in Westfield, and Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer, will be asked to provide their full name and phone number to be recorded in the log, as well as the name of the patient they are visiting. Visitors must also provide a photo ID.

In June, Baystate Health resumed hos-

pital visiting hours which are daily from noon to 8 p.m.

Visitors coming to Baystate Medical Center should allow for extra time for our enhanced check-in process, especially during peak visiting hours from 12 to 1 p.m.

One visitor at a time is allowed in the hospital for non-COVID patients at Baystate Medical Center, Baystate Noble Hospital, Baystate Wing Hospital and Baystate Franklin Medical Center. Baystate Children’s Hospital allows one parent/guardian or one visitor of patients. No visitors are allowed in our emergency departments.

No visitors are allowed for COVID

patients at all hospitals, except:

- Patients under the age of 18 are allowed one parent or guardian.
- OB patients who are in labor are allowed 1 birthing partner.
- Hospice patients and end-of-life patients are allowed 1 person and 1 clergy member per day.
- Patients with disabilities, including physical and cognitive, are allowed 1 companion.

Visitors must travel directly to and from the patient’s room when entering and leaving the hospital and will not be permitted in common areas such as waiting rooms, cafeterias or gift shops.

The visitation process for patients

attending outpatient appointments or visiting outpatient practices remains the same, no visitors can accompany patients. Exceptions are as follows:

- One parent/guardian for a patient 18 years old or younger.
- One companion for patients with disabilities, including physical and cognitive.

Masks must be worn correctly at all times at all Baystate Health facilities. Visitors wearing masks with vents are not allowed and will be issued an approved mask from the hospital.

All visitation is at the discretion of Baystate Health. For the latest information on visitor guidelines, visit baystatehealth.org/visitors.

## COALITION, from page 1

moving forward. This is our state’s moment to get it right.

“While we applaud the selection of Payette to design a new Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke since they are familiar with the 2012 design of the Home and with the concept of the Veterans

Affairs small house design and current requirements, we do have some concerns with the state’s plan. They are:

“First, in respect to a needs assessment and basing the design on the current and future demographic needs of Veterans in Massachusetts. This should not be code words for reducing the size and bed capacity of the Soldiers’ Home. There is a signifi-

cant demand in the Veteran community in our state for long-term care and our Coalition stands firm that the state should maintain a total capacity of at least 250 private room/private bath bedrooms, which was the approximate census before the pandemic. Any design should also include a much-needed Adult Day Healthcare Program, which would include

enhanced outdoor recreational area for use by all residents of the facility.

“Second, in respect to engaging stakeholders, the Coalition has the expertise, desire and commitment to provide informed input to the process, and we wish to be contacted so we can have a collaborative and purposeful dialogue during the entirety of the planning phase.”

## INQUIRY, from page 1

is currently set to meet at the beginning of September. Sept. 1 would normally be the first meeting date, but that could be changed due to the state primary taking place on that day.

Sullivan’s order seeks for Holyoke’s personnel director to hire an outside counsel, much like UMass did, to investigate Morse’s behavior. But unlike the UMass investigation, the Holyoke investigation would also expand to look into Morse’s behavior within city hall, even though there have never been any public accusations from city employees against Morse for inappropriate behavior.

Sullivan’s order has been co-sponsored by Councilors Linda Vacon, David Bartley, and Howard Greaney.

The decision to investigate would have to go in front of the full council and pass with at least seven votes. Only three councilors, including Sullivan, have spoken out against Morse’s behavior in the past two weeks. Therefore, it is unknown if the council would support doing its own investigation. Two other councilors have said they want to see the results of the UMass investigation before passing judgment on Morse’s behavior. It is possible the council could refer the order to a sub-committee, lengthening out the timeline of when an investigation could occur.

Sullivan suggested the city council also should gain support from the Massachusetts Ethics Commission and the attorney general in the matter.

“Because Morse was on the city payroll,” Sullivan said in his initial state-

ment about the proposed order. “His actions have created substantial potential liabilities for our city. In addition, we need to determine if the mayor acted inappropriately towards employees, contractors, or such related parties of the City of Holyoke.”

Vacon, the Ward 5 councilor, has also publicly called for Morse’s resignation where Ward 2 Councilor Terence Murphy suggested a leave of absence because of the distraction it is causing the city.

One councilor that is supporting Morse is Ward 4 Councilor Libby Hernandez. She made a statement Tuesday condemning Sullivan’s actions and comments. In her statement, she also made it known she believes the accusations against Morse have been “fabricated.”

“The City Council must acknowledge and disavow the embarrassing and inflammatory public statements made by Councilor Michael Sullivan and other members of this body regarding Mayor Alex Morse and the fabricated allegations of sexual misconduct against him,” Hernandez stated. “Councilor Sullivan publicly commented on the fabricated allegations, taking advantage of innuendo and homophobic tropes to claim Mayor Morse should resign for his “abhorrent behavior,” baselessly speculating he used his “power and position as mayor and candidate for Congress to engage in sexual activities with teenagers on college campuses.”

She called for Sullivan to be censured, made to apologize, and for a retraction of the investigation order filed by Sullivan.

## HCC, from page 1

oped as one-year, 24-credit certificate programs through the college’s Sustainability Studies department.

“As the cannabis industry has moved into Holyoke and other area towns, a number of the owners of these enterprises are asking for trained employees,” said Kate Maiolatesi, chair of HCC’s Sustainability Studies program. “Estimates for new cannabis jobs in the region range as high as 1,500.”

One new course, Cannabis Today, provides knowledge of the growing part of the industry. Other requirements for the certificate include classes in agriculture, marketing and entrepreneurship.

Maiolatesi said the college also developed the brewing and winemaking certificates with an eye on expanding industries. Another new course, Fermentation Science, explains the scientific processes of fermentation as it applies to both brewing and winemaking.

This fall, HCC is also unveiling new certificate and associate degree programs in a range of other academic areas, including behavioral neuroscience (degree), critical social thought (degree), geoscience (degree), child development (certificate), mental health (certificate,) and veterinary assistant (certificate).

“Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, HCC continues to be innovative in creating new courses and programs that will set students up to either immediately enter the workforce or prepare them for transfer to four-year schools,” said

Rachel Rubinstein, HCC vice president of Academic and Student Affairs.

The fall semester at Holyoke Community College begins Tuesday, Sept. 8.

HCC also has two sessions of accelerated, full-credit, late-start classes this fall for students looking for more flexible academic schedules: Late Start I (12-week courses beginning Sept. 28), and Late Start II (7-week courses beginning Oct. 28). All fall courses conclude by Dec. 16.

All classes are being offered this fall in one of three formats: Online, Blended Remote, and Blended Face-to-Face.

Online courses follow a traditional, asynchronous online model with coursework deadlines established by instructors.

Blended Remote courses have both asynchronous online components combined with scheduled class meetings via video conference platforms such as Zoom.

Blended Face-to-Face combines Blended Remote with some in-person instruction on campus. This format is limited to culinary arts and health science programs that require clinical assessments: nursing, radiologic technology, veterinary technician, and medical assistant.

“For students who might be reconsidering where they want to go to college this fall, HCC offers a university-calibre education for a fraction of the price,” Rubinstein said.

To enroll for fall, please visit hcc.edu/admission, call 413-552-2321 or send an email to admissions@hcc.edu.



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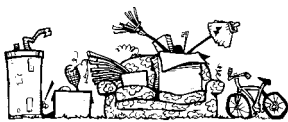
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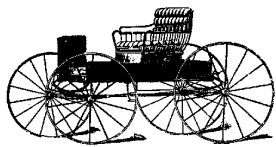
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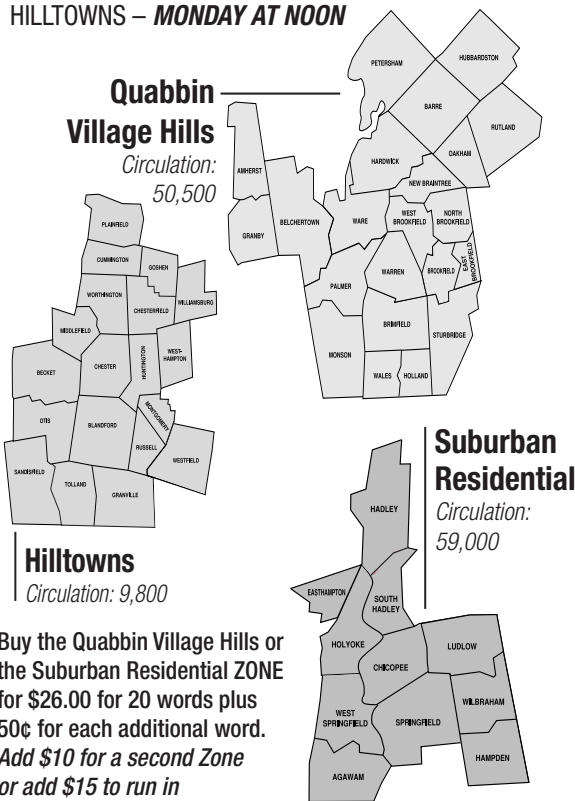
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33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
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Docket No. HD20P1302EA  
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CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Bolivar A Espinal** of Stamford CT requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Bolivar A Espinal** of Stamford CT be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration. **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/03/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by

which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 06, 2020  
**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate  
8/21/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103

(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD20C0135CA  
In the matter of:  
Rowan Gwenelle Grettenberg  
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Rowan Gwenelle Grettenberg of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Rowan Gwenelle Carlacci**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/10/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 13, 2020  
**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate  
8/21/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-8600  
Docket No. HD20P0907EA

Estate of:  
Lawrence T Rivers  
Date of Death:  
November 16, 2019  
NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE  
G.L.c. 190B, § 3-306

To all persons who have or may have some interest in the above-captioned estate and, if interested, to the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Veterans Affairs, notice is hereby given on **August 7, 2020 Edward L Rivers** of Feeding Hills, MA intends to file with the above-named Probate and Family Court, not sooner than seven (7) days after this notice, a Petition for Informal Probate of a Will, Petition for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative, to serve **without surety** on the bond **Edward L Rivers** of Feeding Hills, MA

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to insti-

tute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 8/21/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD20P1306EA  
Estate of:  
Edward R Welch  
Date of Death: 11/04/2019  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Samantha Welch** of Chicopee MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Samantha Welch** of Chicopee MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration. **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the

Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/03/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 06, 2020  
**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate  
8/21/2020

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## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



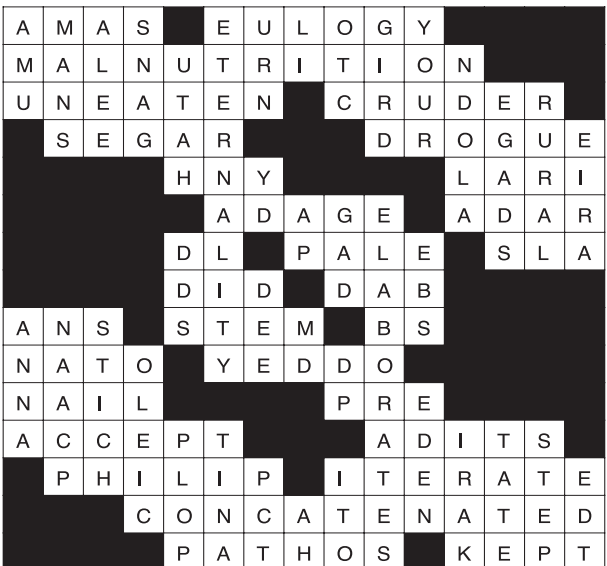
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- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

*Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.*

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)



## The Sun OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

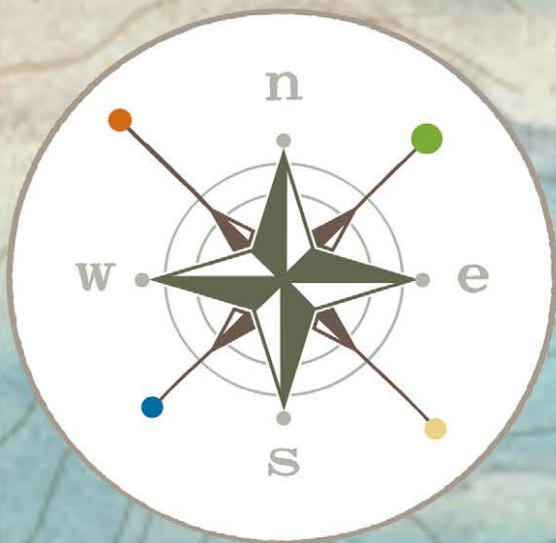
The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*



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